

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03162 190835Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01
/082 W

-----190837Z 004475 /17

P R 190729Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3340
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3162

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJ: NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR

REF: (A) STATE 85743, (B) STATE 85744, (C) SEOUL 2770

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM ACCEPTABILITY TO ROKG OF STR TEAM VISIT TO SEOUL ON MAY 2, 1977. KEY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MCI) FIGURES IN FOOTWEAR QUESTION, KIM SUN KIL, NOH CHIN SHIK AND KIM CHULSU, WHO VISITED CANADA AND US WITH MINISTER CHANG, HAVE NOT YET RETURNED. KIM SUN KIL WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL APRIL 23, BUT WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO REACH NOH AND KIM APRIL 20 A.M. FOR CONFIRMATION OF MAY 2 CONSULTATIONS.

2. EMBOFF VISITED NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR EXPORT ASSOCIATIONS APRIL 18 TO OBTAIN STATISTICAL DATA AS REQUESTED SECOND REFTEL. ALTHOUGH DATA HAVE NOT BEEN KEPT IN THE FORM OR DETAIL REQUESTED, ASSOCIATIONS WILL POLL THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE IT TO US IN TIME TO MEET DEPARTMENT'S APRIL 25 DEADLINE.
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INASMUCH AS ROKG ITSELF WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REQUIRE SUCH STATISTICS, ASSOCIATION REPS PROMISED TO WORK OVERTIME TO DEVELOP THEM, AND (HOPEFULLY) PROVIDE COPY TO US.

3. MEDIA REPORTING ON FOOTWEAR SINCE THIRD REFTEL (APRIL 6) HAS BEEN MINIMAL. IT INCLUDED AN AFP

TOKYO DISPATCH CARRIED APRIL 7 WHICH REPORTED THAT STR WOULD VISIT KOREA RE FOOTWEAR AFTER COLOR TV TALKS IN TOKYO AND US WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF STR'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS. COMMERCIAL PRESS APRIL 8 AND 9 REPORTED BRIEFLY THAT THE US AND ROK WERE NEGOTIATING A "SPONTANEOUS" (NOT EXPLAINED) QUOTA ARRANGEMENT ON FOOTWEAR, AND THAT MCI HAD ON APRIL 8 INSTRUCTED THE EXPORTERS TO HOLD SHIPMENTS DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1977 TO 80 PERCENT OF THEIR RECORDS DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF 1976. EDITORIAL COMMENT LAUDED THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION NOT TO IMPOSE QUOTAS ON KOREA AND TAIWAN WHILE OFFERING DIFFERING ANALYSES ON WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTACHMENT TO FREE TRADE AGAINST PROTECTIONIST DEMANDS FOR FORMAL QUOTAS DOES OR DOES NOT MEAN THAT TRADE PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT. EDITORIALISTS CONCUR THAT DECISION IS IMPORTANT IN THAT THE IMPOSITION OF THE ITC RECOMMENDATION WOULD HAVE ENCOURAGED A CHAIN REACTION BY OTHER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SIMILAR PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES. THEY ARE FEARFUL ABOUT NUMBERS AND ANXIOUS THAT THE US NOT DEMAND RESTRAINTS AT LEVEL WHICH WOULD DEAL A BLOW TO THE KOREAN FOOTWEAR (AND TV) INDUSTRY AND THAT ROKG NEGOTIATOR NOT CONCEDE ON RESTRAINT NUMBERS BUT RATHER RESPOND BY LIBERALIZING KOREAN RESTRAINTS AND/OR DIRECTING MORE INDUSTRIAL PURCHASING TO THE U.S. AS A MEANS OF EXPANDING AND BALANCING TRADE.

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Message Attributes

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